UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/257/Add.1
2 September 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Item 145 of the provisional agenda*

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

Page

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES

Brunei Darussalam 2

Sri Lanka 2

Syrian Arab Republic 4

* A/49/150.

94-35143 (E) 150994 190994

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

[Original: English]

[4 August 1994]

1. Brunei Darussalam fully supports the efforts of the United Nations to eliminate terrorism.

2. Brunei Darussalam recognizes the threat that terrorism poses to regional and international security.

3. There is a necessity to convene an international conference to discuss all aspects of terrorism.

4. There are several legal and other issues which need to be discussed and resolved so that international cooperation may be enhanced.

5. Brunei Darussalam has shown its concern about terrorism by signing several international conventions relating to the security of civil aviation and the security of maritime navigation.

SRI LANKA

[Original: English]

[15 July 1994]

1. The Government of Sri Lanka attaches great importance to the practical implementation of General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism, including resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991.

2. Manifestations of terrorism that involve an external factor or the presence of a foreign element pose a grave threat to the security, stability, political independence and territorial integrity of States, in particular small States.

3. Measures to combat international terrorism should, therefore, specifically focus on:

(a) The organization, instigation and assisting of terrorist acts from foreign territories directed at third States;

(b) The combating of terrorist acts within one State and seeking safe haven within a foreign State;

(c) The condoning of activities, including fund-raising and the provision of arms and training, which have the effect of sustaining or encouraging terrorism in other States.

4. In this context Sri Lanka welcomes General Assembly resolutions 44/29 and 46/51, and decision 48/411 which unequivocally condemn, as criminal and

non-justifiable, all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever and by whomever committed, and which call upon States, inter alia, to fulfil their obligations under international law by refraining from organizing, instigating, assisting, participating in, encouraging or acquiescing in terrorist activities or in the preparation of such activities, and to adhere to their obligations under international conventions in the field of terrorism to prosecute or extradite offenders and to cooperate on the apprehension and prosecution of such offenders.

5. Sri Lanka supports the wide adherence to the existing international conventions on specific aspects of terrorism so as to deprive any safe haven to terrorist offenders. Sri Lanka is a party to the Tokyo, The Hague and Montreal conventions on offenses committed on board aircraft, the unlawful seizure of aircraft and the safety of civil aviation, and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents. Sri Lanka is also examining the possibility of early accession to other conventions on specific aspects of terrorism.

6. The Government of Sri Lanka is of the view that the role of the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies in combating terrorism could be enhanced by examining and dealing with the disturbing dimensions of the linkage between the illicit arms trade, trafficking in narcotics and the activities of terrorist groups. The transfer of illicit arms to terrorist groups, particularly through funds generated from drug trafficking, pose a real danger to the security and stability of States and also to regional and international security. It also undermines attempts to negotiate political solutions to internal or international conflicts. The alarming dimensions of this dangerous nexus between the illicit arms trade, narcotic trafficking and the activities of terrorist groups requires high priority in devising practical measures to eliminate acts of terrorism.

7. The United Nations could play a central coordinating role in achieving transparency over illicit arms transfers. The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, for instance, could collect and process information on such illicit transfers, thereby helping to identify more clearly illicit arms transfers to terrorist groups. This mechanism should be backed up by greater cooperation between law enforcement and customs agencies of Member States, both at the international and regional level.

8. Similar attention must be given to the gross violation of human rights perpetrated by terrorist groups. Sri Lanka has been a victim of gross violation of human rights perpetrated by violent terrorist groups. Indiscriminate and random acts of violence and terror by these groups have resulted in death and injury caused to innocent persons, including women and children. Seriously concerned with the increase of these activities, Sri Lanka co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 48/122 on human rights and terrorism, which unequivocally condemned gross violation of human rights by terrorist groups.

9. The Government of Sri Lanka has also brought to the attention of the international community and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the violent campaign of terror unleashed by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil

Eeelam (LTTE), a terrorist group seeking to establish a mono-ethnic state in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. The activities of the group have resulted in gross violation of human rights, including the right to life of the Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim people of Sri Lanka. The group has also extended its activities beyond the territory of Sri Lanka and their harmful effects have been felt in neighbouring and other countries.

10. The Government of Sri Lanka is also committed to the creation of a cooperative regime at the regional level to combat terrorism as it affects the security and stability of the region. The need for such a regime is imperative in the context of the external linkages of terrorist groups and would supplement measures at the international level to counter the threat of terrorism.

11. Sri Lanka thus took the initiative within the regional forum of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to negotiate and conclude the SAARC Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. The SAARC Convention entered into force on 22 August 1988, after ratification by all member States of SAARC. Sri Lanka has also enacted the SAARC Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism Act No. 70 of 1988 to give effect, at the national level, to its obligations under the Convention.

12. Sri Lanka has constantly stressed within the SAARC forum the need for the rapid and effective exchange of information among concerned agencies of Member States to prevent acts of terrorism through precautionary measures. It therefore hosted several meetings of experts in the field on the creation of a regional network of exchange of information relating to activities of terrorist groups. Sri Lanka has also offered to host a permanent liaison unit to work as a data bank and an information dissemination centre focusing, inter alia, on the nature and trends of terrorist activities, as well as strategies and methods relating to terrorism in the region. This would facilitate the formulation of an appropriate strategy to combat the threat of terrorism at the regional level. This proposal has been recommended by the experts for consideration by the SAARC Council of Ministers.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

[Original: Arabic]

[18 July 1994]

1. The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its condemnation of all manifestations of terrorism as criminal acts that target the lives and property of innocent people and violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. It calls for genuine cooperation between all States in accordance with international law in taking the steps necessary to combat and prevent terrorism and eliminate its underlying causes. It also calls for the elaboration of internationally acceptable criteria to differentiate clearly between terrorism, which must be condemned and eliminated, and the struggle of peoples for national liberation, which must be protected and supported.

2. The Syrian Arab Republic therefore welcomed the historic General Assembly resolution 42/159, which represented an important step in expanding and encouraging effective cooperation to combat terrorism in accordance with international law and on the basis of the principles mentioned in paragraph 14 of that resolution and derived from the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States.

3. The Syrian Arab Republic was among the first to call for the convening of an international conference to define terrorism, explore its causes and differentiate it from the struggle of peoples for national liberation from foreign occupation and to study the underlying cause of those acts of violence, which lie in the violation of those peoples' basic rights and in misery, frustration, grievance and despair. The Syrian Arab Republic considers that any working group to be established should concentrate its efforts on preparations for convening an international conference to define terrorism and study means of eliminating it, and in the light of the results of that conference it may be possible to draft an international convention on the prevention of terrorism.

4. The Syrian Arab Republic appreciates the efforts made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to seek the views of Member States on convening the international conference in question in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Its position is based on its concern to uphold international legitimacy, the principles of international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter. It is of the view that the General Assembly should consider the item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" on a biennial basis in order to review ways and means of enhancing the role of the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies in combating international terrorism.